

TERRIBLE FALL OF A TRAIN.

Plunged Ninety Feet Sheer Into the Bottom of a Ravine.

AT LEAST TWENTY PASSENGERS KILLED.

Twenty-Five Others Wounded and Many of Them Will Die—The Disaster Takes Place in North Carolina.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Aug. 27.—The most dreadful railroad disaster in the history of the state is recorded today in the story of the total destruction of an entire passenger train on the Western North Carolina road, an accident in which the engineer, fireman, all the brakemen and probably forty passengers were dashed to instant death—a wreck from the debris of which only one man, the conductor, emerged able to walk back to the nearest station and give the news of the disaster.

The train, which leaped to such a sudden and such a complete and utter destruction, was the fast passenger and mail train which left Salisbury for Asheville over the Western North Carolina road this morning at 1 o'clock. The train was composed of a baggage car, express car, mail car, first and second class cars and a sleeper.

It met its fearful fate on the high bridge over Third creek, two miles west of Waterville. The bridge was built years ago of solid masonry. It is ninety feet high and is arched for the passing of wagons in the roadway beneath, as well as for the waters of the creek. It is as safe as a bridge could be—in fact a track on solid ground would be no safer. Trains, therefore, don't slack speed upon approaching it. The fatal train was running at the rate of forty miles an hour when it approached the bridge.

Gap in the Rails.

In the center of the bridge there was a gap in the gleaming line of rails. The engine struck the gap, raved a great bound, and fell down into space. Along with it went every car in the train one after another with their human loads, crashing upon the hard ground ninety feet below.

The engine struck the ground first and then upon it came one car after another with horrible crashes. Every car was smashed into kindling wood, and the wreckage was heaped in a confused and disordered heap in one pile. Down under it were the torn and mangled bodies of the crew and unfortunate passengers. The great high bridge apparently remained intact, but the rails were torn up and the edges of the stones were knocked off where the falling cars had come in contact with it.

At daylight 100 willing people from the surrounding farms were helping to remove the wreckage and draw out the bodies of the dead. It was a terrible scene. The debris of the cars was piled mountain high, it seemed, in the utmost confusion. In the fall the Pullman car had leaped over all the others, whirling through the air and striking the ground, with terrible effect, away in front of where the engine lay. It was washed as one would crush an egg by throwing it against a stone wall.

Result of the Crash.

The sight was sickening. From the debris of the passenger cars bodies were brought out mangled in all sorts of ways, only two or three bodies being brought out intact. The bodies were ranged in a row on the hillside ready to be sent to Statesville. The conductor was badly hurt, but he clung to Statesville and gave news of the wreck.

Three ladies in the first class car were killed, and everyone in the sleeping car met death, not a living soul escaping. Twenty passengers were killed outright, nine seriously wounded and about twenty badly bruised and shaken up. The scene at the wreck beggars description. The night was dismal, and, to add to the horror of the situation, the water in the creek was up. It was only through the most heroic efforts of those who had hurried to the scene of the wreck that the injured were not drowned.

The accident was caused by the spreading of the rails. The bridge was not injured and trains are running on schedule time. Twenty dead bodies are now lying in a warehouse at Statesville. The injured are having the best of care at private residences and hotels. The casualties may reach forty, as it is not believed that all the bodies have been taken out.

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- DR. GEORGE W. SANDERLIN, state auditor, was on the wrecked train. He was painfully injured.
Among others who escaped with injuries more or less serious are:
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Strengthening His Position.

While the movement of the rebels is a good deal a matter of conjecture, there is no doubt that President Balmaceda has lost no time in strengthening his position. Reinforcements have been constantly arriving until now he has within his grasp 20,000 men. He has established a long line of defense reaching from Vina Del Mar to Pucallanca, and which it would be almost impossible for the forces of the command of General Canto to break through.

Confidence is gradually returning in Valparaiso as the consequence of the steady position of the government forces, and some of the business houses were opened today for the first time since the appearance of the invading army.

The government army is much better equipped than the enemy so far as cavalry is concerned and Balmaceda is well informed of the movements of the rebels by the cavalry corps which is constantly on the move.

Stories of Disloyalty.

The stories that the troops in Balmaceda's army are disloyal and outrageous so far as can be ascertained without foundation. The torpedo boats Almirante and Almirante were captured by the rebels, but everything had been lost. He closed himself in the cabin, lighted the lamp to warm his hands, and remained the whole night in the cabin, but he should not have done so. He was then so feeble that he could not walk and he remained prostrate for two days.

On the next day the tempest broke out with renewed violence. A wave capized the boat and Captain Andrews and three of the crew were lost. He prayed to God, "For the sake of my family give me another chance and I shall stop this business." He managed to reach the beach and swimming round the vessel climbed upon the keel. There he clung by a couple of ropes to the sides of the boat, but everything had been lost. He closed himself in the cabin, lighted the lamp to warm his hands, and remained the whole night in the cabin, but he should not have done so. He was then so feeble that he could not walk and he remained prostrate for two days.

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Fifteen Hundred Tents.

That Number Ready for the Reception of Grand Island Visitors.

Camp Sherman Will be Well Lighted.

Active Preparations for the Encampment Continue to Improve the Scene of the Reunion—Other Veterans in Session.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Aug. 27.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Camp Sherman is complete in every detail tonight and the Nebraska National Guard camp will be in perfect order by Friday night. Quartermaster Jenkins arrived tonight and will attend to the National Guard camp and see that everything is in readiness for the two regiments, battery and troop of cavalry to arrive Saturday.

The press headquarters tent has been handsomely decorated and sports a handsome flag staff. Tents are up for THE OMAHA BEE, World-Herald, State Journal and Fremont Field. Adjoining the press headquarters is the department headquarters row.

There is still great activity in the building of tents. Sunday will be the closing day for the citizens of Grand Island, that being the last day on which carriages will be admitted into the camp. The streets leading to the camp are being put in excellent condition. Fifteen hundred tents are up and in perfect order tonight and 300 more will be pitched and ready for the reception of the Nebraska National Guard's troops.

Hon. W. H. Michael of Washington, D. C., has accepted an invitation to deliver a public address Thursday evening at the reunion and Senator Paddock has been invited to deliver a Sherman memorial address the same evening. At the request of the committee the grand amphitheater was inspected today by competent judges and pronounced absolutely safe for all the people and can be crowded upon the top of the hill. The amphitheater is the strongest, amphitheaters ever built in the state and will comfortably seat about 2,000 people. The grand amphitheater is the strongest, amphitheaters ever built in the state and will comfortably seat about 2,000 people.

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Red Cloud's Reunion.

RED CLOUD, Neb., Aug. 27.—(Special to THE BEE.)—The work on the reunion grounds goes merrily on and each day brings the plans nearer completion. The electric lights will be arranged this week and the water supply being dug. The preparation for Red Cloud is taking an active interest in the reunion and are all striving to make it a success. Arrangements are being made to secure some good speakers, but as yet they have not been selected.

From the famous Arabian horse presented to General Grant by the khedive of Egypt and now the property of General Crook, a fine specimen of the breed, together with Zinta, the Indian princess, who was found on the bloody battlefield of Wounded Knee.

The shooting tournament between the Nebraska and Kansas National guards will be one of the leading attractions during the reunion. A battery of artillery supported by a regiment of infantry under the command of Colonel Parks posted on the bluffs on the right bank of the river, and another battery consisting of two regiments of infantry under the command of Captains Webster and McDonough, advanced through the bluffs and took position on the bluffs and defended the defenders' position. After twice putting them to rout the enemy surrendered and the battle was won. It passed off in a most brilliant manner and attracted many spectators, who thronged the bluffs south of the city.

Reviewed the Second Regiment.

DAVENPORT, Ia., Aug. 27.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Governor Horace Boies and staff arrived in this city today to review the Second regiment, Iowa National guards. Two companies detach as an escort, "A" of Burlington and "C" of Muscatine, met the party at the depot when they arrived upon the noon train and escorted them to the grounds in carriages. The governor's staff of thirteen guns was fired by the artillery detail upon the arrival of the distinguished party at Camp Wentz.

This afternoon business in the city was greatly suspended by a crowd of 5,000 people witnessed the manoeuvres of the regiment. A reception to the governor at the armory this evening was attended by a crowd of invited persons and followed by a military ball. Friday is the last day of the encampment and then the companies will separate for their homes.

Kloman & Arnold's Bank Prospering. BROKEN BOW, Neb., Aug. 27.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—The statement in yesterday's Bee that Kloman & Arnold's bank of this place had failed was a mistake, and the citizens cannot see how such a report was started. They are one of the most solid institutions of the city, and have the entire confidence of the people. As an evidence of their entire reliability they have an arrangement made to increase their capital stock about \$25,000. This firm has a bank at Assiniboia, and a flouring mill at the same place.

Married at McCool. UTICA, Neb., Aug. 27.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Mr. E. D. Derby of this place and Miss Maggie Ryder of McCool, were married at the home of the bride.

Annual Christian Convention.

FAIRFIELD, Neb., Aug. 27.—(Special to THE BEE.)—The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Nebraska Christian Convention held its opening session here yesterday morning. About 300 delegates are in attendance. The opening session yesterday morning at the church of Fairfield college was crowded to its utmost capacity. The forenoon was spent in hearing the reports of the officers. The four evangelists show an increase of members to the Christian church during the past year.

Reports from two colleges controlled by the church give 350 as the number of students enrolled last year. Among the visitors from abroad are T. E. Meigs, returned missionary from China, who addressed a large audience in the evening, and Miss Mary Gravel of the Christian Women's Board of Missions. The convention is being entertained by the church here and will continue in session until Friday afternoon.

Brakeman Injured. HOLDSBERRY, Neb., Aug. 27.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—Charles Hollenberger, a brakeman on the Cheyenne line, had three fingers of his left hand cut off while making a coupling in making up his train here this morning. He lost a finger of his right hand a couple of months ago and had only been at work again three days.

Chicago's Tower.

No Arrangements Yet Made for Anything of the Kind. (Copyright 1891 by James Gordon Bennett.) PARIS, Aug. 27.—(New York Herald Cable Special to THE